

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-33 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 23-25 and 28-30 without prejudice or disclaimer and cancelled claims 12-22 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have added new claim 34. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 23-34 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 112

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 6-8, 17-19 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the rejected claims to substitute “operated” in place of “maintained”.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

3. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4-12, 15-23 and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0177437A1 by Ferrier (“Ferrier ‘437”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0120475A1 by Morimoto (“Morimoto ‘475”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 6-8, 10, 23 and 28-30 without prejudice or disclaimer and canceled claims 15-22 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

Furthermore Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest at least the following:

generating an shipment tracking identifier for use with a shipping system;
associating the shipment tracking identifier with a particular sending party, a particular receiving party and ~~a particular~~ the item;
storing data relating to the identifier and the particular sending party in the transaction module;
obtaining shipment tracking identifier data at a destination location from the shipping system indicating that the item has arrived at the destination;
correlating the shipment tracking identifier data to ~~[[a]]~~ the particular sending party and the item; and
then authorizing a debit associated with the item from a selected ~~receiving party's~~ account associated with the particular receiving party to a selected account of the particular sending party.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are patentable over the cited references and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-3, 13-14 and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0177437A1 by Ferrier ("Ferrier '437") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0120475A1 by Morimoto ("Morimoto '475") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 7,080,044 to Cordery, et al. ("Cordery '044").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicants reserve the right to remove the Cordery '044 reference under 35 USC 103(c). However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1-3 and 23-25 without prejudice or disclaimer and canceled claims 13-14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons stated above with reference to the associated independent claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11 and 23-34 are in condition for allowance.

4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

5. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-715.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-715.

Respectfully submitted,
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